

What does wilderness do for you?

- Works as a filter, providing clean water and air
- Maintains habitat for wildlife and preserves biodiversity
- Provides a place for outdoor recreational activities as well as opportunities for solitude and a place to experience nature's beauty
- Works as a dynamic "laboratory" for scientific and medical research
- Promotes wilderness stewardship, and in turn, ecosystem preservation

Essence of Wilderness

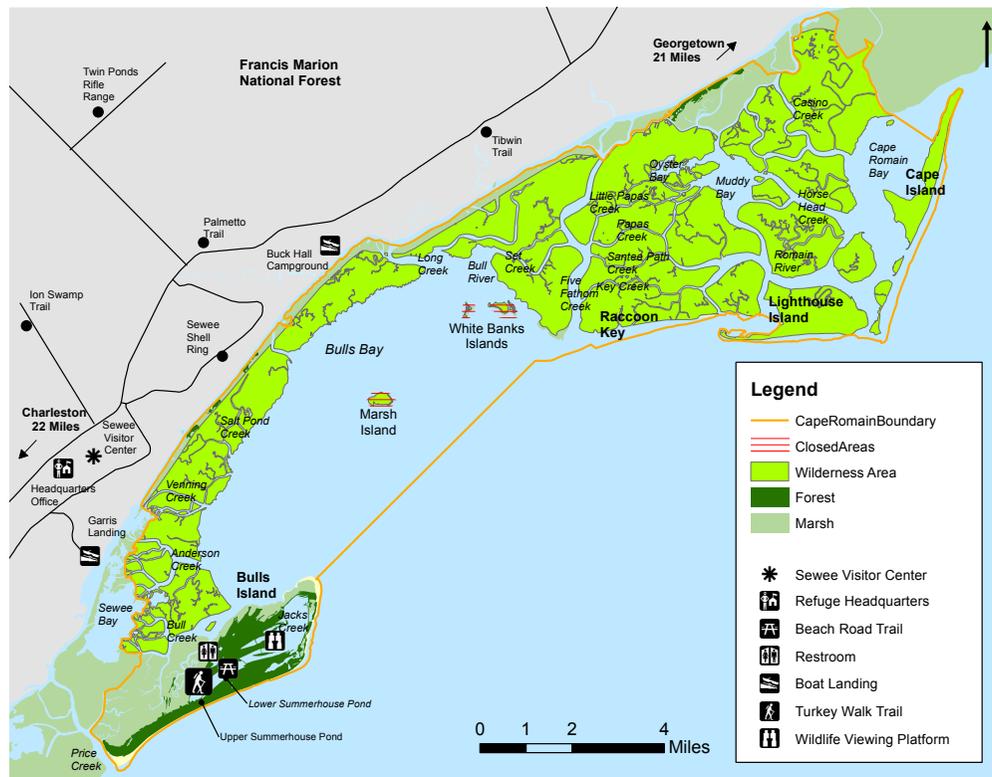
Wilderness is a uniquely American idea and has always been a fundamental part of our American story and heritage. In 1964, Congress formally acknowledged the benefits of wild places by passing the Wilderness Act, creating the National Wilderness Preservation System and a legal definition of wilderness:

"the most intact, undisturbed wild natural areas left on our planet, the last wild places where humans haven't developed with roads, pipelines, or other industrial infrastructure."

Wilderness areas are places where people from all walks of life can visit to experience solitude and spiritual awakening through the enjoyment of awe inspiring, pristine landscapes. While visiting Wilderness, you can connect with your sense of wonder in a place of peace and quiet, while experiencing wildlife in its natural habitat. It is a place where you can hike, fish, bird-watch, or just reconnect with the land. Wilderness can also be described as a living classroom, providing a unique setting for teaching wilderness stewardship as well as biology, history, or outdoor survivorship skills.

For more information, visit www.wilderness.net

Four federal agencies manage and provide stewardship for America's 109 million acres of wilderness:



- Bureau of Land Management: 6%
- National Forest Service: 33%
- Fish and Wildlife Service: 20%
- National Park Service: 41%

Other Wilderness Areas in South Carolina

Congaree National Park Wilderness
21,700 acres www.nps.gov/cong/

Ellicott Rock Wilderness
8,274 acres www.wilderness.net/NWPS/wildView?WID=176

Francis Marion National Forest Wilderness
13,812 acres
Four areas: Hell Hole Bay, Wambaw Swamp, Wambaw Creek, and Little Wambaw Swamp www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs/

**Cape Romain
National Wildlife Refuge**
5801 Highway 17 North
Awendaw, SC 29429
Phone: 843/928 3264
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/cape_roman
<https://www.facebook.com/caperomain>



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cape Romain Wilderness

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed"

Wallace Stegner



“In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.”

John Muir

Refuge Wilderness

On January 3rd, 1975, 29,000 acres of Cape Romain’s 66,306 acres was designated as Class 1 Wilderness. This distinction recognizes this area as having some of the cleanest air on the east coast. The Class 1 Wilderness Air Quality designation provides protection from future air pollution under the Clean Air Act.

All of Cape Romain is designated Wilderness, with the exception of Bulls Island, Garris Landing, and a band of marsh along the Intracoastal Waterway. The Wilderness is accessible only by boat, but don’t let this fact stop you. Many visitors make a day trip of kayaking, canoeing, sailing or motor boating out to this beautiful remote area on the South Carolina coast. This wilderness ecosystem consists of emergent saltmarsh dominated by smooth cord grass and barrier islands with shell-strewn white sandy beaches. You can enjoy a variety of activities within the refuge; such as beach combing, photography, surf fishing, observing wildlife, and much more.



*Left to right: Surf fishing/
Kristen Gardner; terns in
flight/Billy Shaw; seacoast/
Kristen Gardner; Black
skimmer/Ben Sumrell;
Loggerhead hatchling/Laura
Smith; Piping plover/ Tom
Blagden*

Wildlife

Cape Romain Wilderness is a part of the Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve and is designated one of four Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites of International Importance on the Atlantic Coast. It is a vital refuge for over 293 species of birds, including seabirds, shorebirds, wading birds, and raptors. According to the seasons you may see Black skimmers, Red knots, Least terns, Marbled godwits or the Wilson’s plover while visiting the Wilderness.

Cape Romain is host to the largest nesting rookery for Brown pelicans and terns on the South Carolina coast, and has the largest wintering population of American oystercatchers on the East coast. Additionally, the threatened Piping plover calls the beaches of Cape Romain home during its migration in the spring and fall.

Cape Romain’s barrier islands are the site of the largest nesting population of the threatened Loggerhead sea turtle outside the state of Florida. The northern most islands of the Wilderness receive an average of 1000 Loggerhead nests annually.

Stewardship

Everyone plays a vital role in ensuring that present and future generations enjoy the benefits of Wilderness. When visiting the refuge Wilderness, please practice the Leave No Trace (LNT) guidelines to help ensure this beautiful area is left healthy and intact. Wilderness areas were designated for the “use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness” (Wilderness Act of 1964). Together, visitors and refuge management work to create a balance that preserves the untrammeled quality of Wilderness, while also utilizing its many unique attributes that make it worthwhile. We must rise to the challenge of protecting our wilderness legacy, for the benefits these areas provide far exceed the mere acreage protected.

For more info on LNT, visit www.lnt.org/programs